



CENTER FOR PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL OVERSIGHT

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May 29, 2012

Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste & Emergency Response
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Mathy:

As you may know, Region 9 EPA has developed an Interim Removal Action Level (RAL) for short-term exposure to trichloroethylene (TCE), and it is seeking guidance from headquarters about its applicability. It is based on the non-cancer findings in EPA's September 2011 Toxicological Review of TCE. Though the RAL was developed in response to construction activity at the MEW Superfund Study Area here in Mountain View, it may have applicability at a wide range of sites across the country.

When the Center for Public Environmental Oversight learned that the MEW Responsible Parties were submitting lengthy documents challenging the proposed/interim RAL, we asked our technical consultant, Peter Strauss, to review them. We are always concerned when Responsible Parties inject themselves into toxicological debates because, to our knowledge, they *never* argue for more protective standards.

Here is Peter's memo, developed in consultation with our Community Advisory Board for the MEW Superfund Study Area and the Moffett Field National Priorities List site. Based upon Peter's analysis, CPEO and our Community Advisory Board recommend that EPA headquarters act quickly to adopt Region 9's approach, which appears to be justified by scientific evidence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lenny Siegel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lenny" and last name "Siegel" clearly distinguishable.

Lenny Siegel
Executive Director